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ANONYMOUS
W.B., 1889
LACK MAP

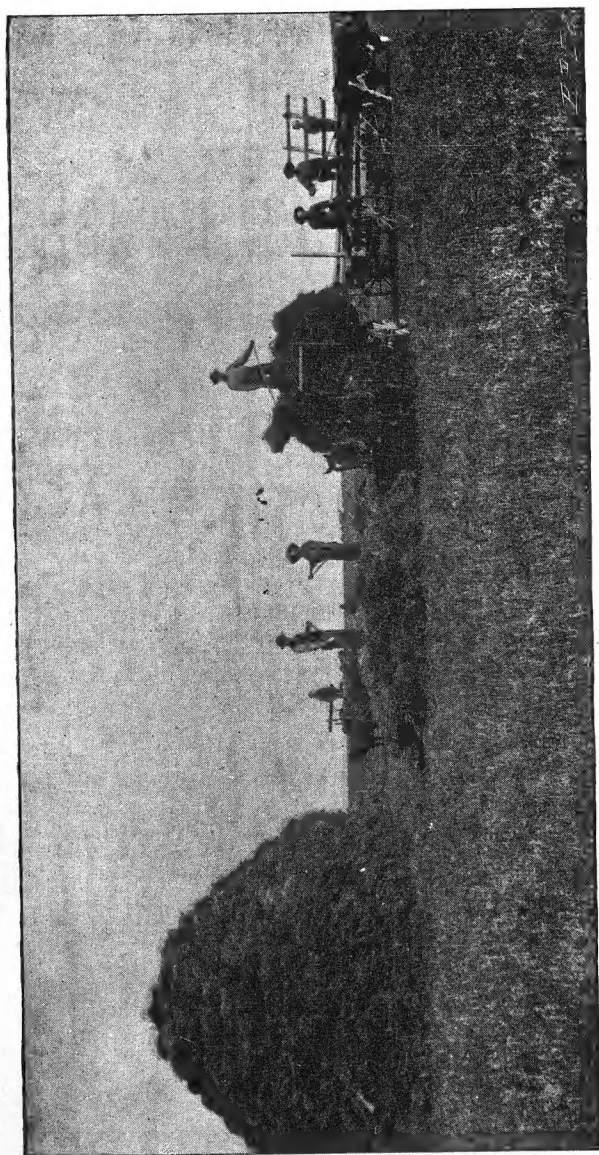
DAIRY FARMING, RANCHING

AND

MINING,

IN

ALBERTA AND ASSINIBOIA



HARVESTING SCENE ON THE PRAIRIE.

MIXED FARMING, RANCHING AND MINING, IN ALBERTA AND ASSINIBOIA.



WHO SHOULD GO TO ALBERTA.

While Alberta offers inducements to industrious emigrants from all civilized nations, the class who are most likely to succeed here, at this stage of the country's history, are men and families of some means, practical farmers, and above all the dairy farmers of England, Ireland and Scotland. To this class Alberta offers inducements which few, if any other countries can offer. A country where laws are good, where life and property are as safe as in any part of the world, where the educational advantages are exceptionally good ; a land of bright sunny skies, and healthful climate ; a new land where millions of acres of virgin soil await the industry of the new comer ; free lands in the most progressive country of the age ; markets good and growing better each year ; a land promising wealth to the industrious and practical.

The capitalist will find in Alberta an interesting and profitable field for investment ; it would be fruitless to attempt to point out the many channels for investment, they are legion, each day some new mineral discovery is made known, some new industry promising large

returns crops up; everywhere is the want of capital felt; the industries connected with cattle, sheep and horse raising and dairy farming alone are so great, that imagination cannot grasp them, and the capitalist in Alberta has a large choice of pursuits all promising rich rewards.

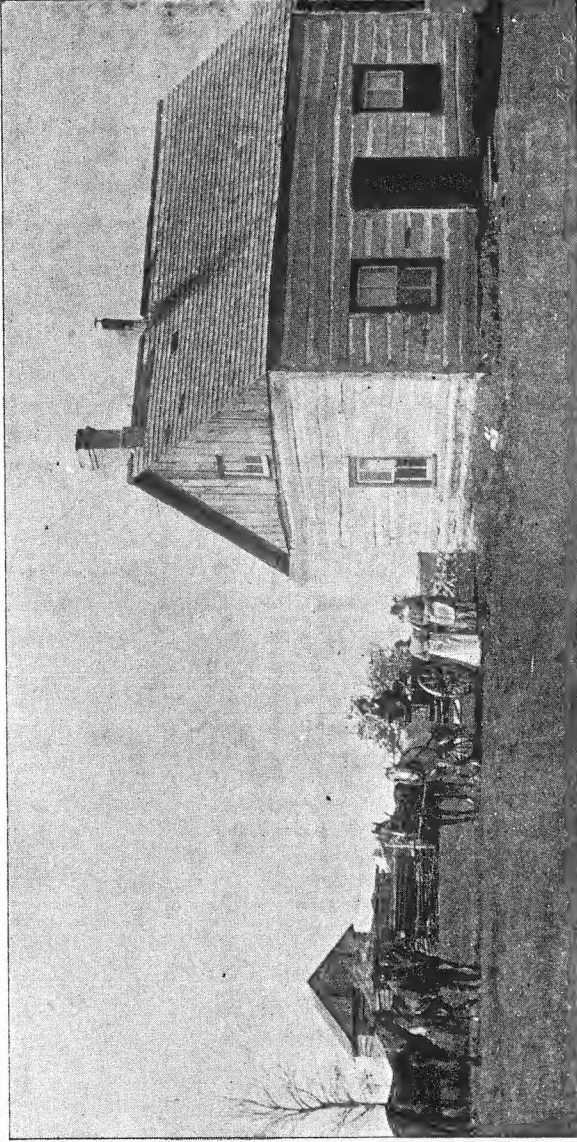
To the laborer, the industrious farm laborer who will work contentedly for a few years until he acquires capital to start farming for himself, Alberta holds bright prospects; if he is sober and economical, success brighter than his most sanguine expectations is within his reach.

To the servant girls of the old country, and especially to girls accustomed to dairy work, we would say that Alberta needs your labor and industry, and offers you good wages to start with; it rests largely with yourselves if you are long seeking employment; new homes are springing up every day, and progressive settlers are continually seeking good wives. The prospect that you may in the near future fill the honored position of a good wife to a worthy man, and be mistress of a comfortable happy home of your own, should be an inducement to tempt good sensible women to come to Alberta.

The invalid will find in Alberta a bracing climate to recuperate his health, the virtues of its hot mineral springs are becoming universally extolled.

The sportsman, tourist, artist, botanist and geologist will find that the mountains, forests, lakes and prairies of Alberta afford abundance of pleasure, interest and information; a large portion of Northwestern Alberta is but little known and an almost unexplored country, and offers much to lovers of adventure and exploration.

For educated labor, there are very few openings here. clerks, salesmen and educated men of no particular calling, and who have no means, should not come; the supply already here far exceeds the demand. Professional men



A PRAIRIE FARM-HOUSE

with limited means expecting to make a living out of the practice of their profession are also likely to be disappointed; there are already more lawyers, doctors, engineers, surveyors, etc., than there is at present profitable practice for. The country needs producers and capitalists; men of idle and extravagant habits, men with no capital and who are unaccustomed to manual labor, will be likely to meet with hardship and disappointment. Farmers with some capital, say from \$500 (£100) to \$2,000 (£400) will find this a good country, providing always they are industrious, economical and practical. With \$2,000 to \$3,000, a man with a family to help him can make a splendid start in dairy or mixed farming, with every chance of growing wealthy in a very few years.

WHEN TO COME.

The settler coming to Alberta will be rather benefited than otherwise by coming early in the spring. Spring work, ploughing, etc., generally commences at the end of February and seldom later than the middle of March; true, after that we have some disagreeable cold spells, but it will be a decided advantage to the new comer to arrive in good season, as, if he intends entering into dairy farming, he will be in a position to enjoy the full benefit of the season, and there is no reason why he should not make money from the first by butter making. It will be found that outside the supply of clothing for himself and family, it is more profitable to purchase his requirements when he arrives at his destination. Money in his pocket will secure him the necessaries suitable to the country, whereas the useless, though possibly costly amount of baggage which so many bring, is often found a hindrance in many ways. When you have thoroughly made up your mind to emigrate, purchase a "through

ticket " to Calgary, if you intend settling in the centre or northern part of Alberta.

Do not believe any discouraging reports of the country which interested parties are so willing to circulate : more than a few have been deterred from coming here by false reports. The letters published in this pamphlet are written by practical people of good standing, and you cannot get a better idea of the country than by reading them over carefully. When you have done so, you will very likely be convinced that this is a good country ; and when you come, if you are of the right material, you will find success crown your labors.

CLIMATE.

One of the greatest delights incidental to life in this highly favored country, is found in the magnificence of the climate. It may truly be said, for the meteorological records amply prove it, that there is no place on this western hemisphere that enjoys more bright sunlight, during the year round, than Alberta, and it enjoys at least fifty per cent more than the average.

There is no rainy season in Alberta ; no two or three months of wet and slush, sleet and rain, in the fall, as in other parts of the Dominion.

The autumn weather of Alberta is perfect. Towards the end of September the air gets chilly at night, with frost enough to make the roads crisp in the morning ; the sun rises in matchless splendour, the blue vault of Heaven is unmarked with even the shadow of a cloud, the atmosphere clear and light, bright and invigorating, thrilling every pulsation of feeling, sharpening the intellect, and infusing ruddy energy into every part of the body.

No one can do justice with the pen to the splendour of this weather ; day after day, week after week, sometimes

clear up to Christmas-tide, this fall weather remains unbroken, warm, joyous, delicious.

When winter sets in, the siege is usually sharp, short and decisive. The writer has seen the thermometer 25° below zero, but as a matter of fact, the writer has also experienced winter weather in Ontario when the thermometer was standing above zero, but the cold seemed more intense, more searching, and greatly more discomforting than at 25° below zero in Alberta.

This is now a well recognized distinction between the weather of the east and west of Canada, and it entirely rejects the thermometer as an index of the comparative severity of winter weather. The reason of the difference has often been explained,—the air of Alberta is singularly free from moisture, that of Ontario is humid.

The spring season of Alberta is the most trying; not because it is particularly wet, or severe, or long, but because with a mild winter, one expects to see a correspondingly early spring. In Alberta one is usually disappointed on that score, because the spring there is very rarely any earlier than in Manitoba, or Ontario. The winter is shortened mostly by its often being nearly New Year before there is any winter weather to speak of. But the summer once entered upon, the weather is superb; between the days of bright, life-producing sunshine, copious warm showers fall bathing the rich soil like a hotbed and forcing vegetation forward in rapid and rank profusion.

It is the fact that the atmosphere in Alberta is at all times so free from humidity or vapor, that recommends the climate so strongly to people suffering with pulmonary or bronchial affections. In the earlier stages of disease, it cannot but be efficacious, while with the more advanced, it is of course a matter of doubt; but to keep

a healthy man healthy, a sound man sound, an energetic man full of life and determination, there is no climate like Alberta.

Below is given the meteorological record of Mr. J. E. Julien, the Dominion Government observer at Calgary, for the four months June 1st to September 30th inclusive. 1888.

SUMMER TEMPERATURE AT CALGARY, 1888.

—	June.		July.		August.		September.		Rainfall.
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	
1	43	73	42	70	48	74	45	89	June, 3½ inches.
2	43	77	45	68	52	70	47	88	
3	55	66	45	62	45	64	40	79	
4	40	45	42	66	44	59	40	77	
5	58	67	42	63	38	63	50	67	
6	35	66	42	77	45	64	46	72	
7	44	56	44	78	45	62	32	72	
8	45	68	44	79	42	57	36	74	
9	40	71	53	83	45	57	45	55	
10	45	73	52	92	40	65	35	58	
11	51	63	49	79	50	68	28	78	July, 3½ inches.
12	33	73	88	66	47	67	42	86	
13	51	71	54	74	41	65	48	63	
14	41	71	45	64	47	75	33	77	
15	50	71	40	64	53	74	39	84	
16	41	72	42	73	50	81	50	86	
17	46	66	48	79	52	85	44	83	
18	45	72	45	81	54	84	50	82	
19	53	61	59	85	59	82	30	71	
20	51	53	55	73	61	87	32	80	
21	41	57	51	79	51	89	48	65	August, 2.10 inches.
22	49	56	48	75	51	90	29	63	
23	41	67	50	82	42	79	33	67	
24	46	68	53	75	52	66	28	70	
25	60	60	56	77	52	72	48	57	
26	41	70	39	75	48	87	40	87	
27	46	66	43	67	46	77	35	71	
28	41	63	49	82	47	80	41	69	
29	39	60	49	67	42	67	35	80	
30	43	72	43	67	46	76	47	76	
31	40	78	42	79	September, ½ of an inch.

THE COAL FIELDS OF ALBERTA.

The known Coal Fields of Alberta are both varied and extensive, covering an area extending from the easterly



VERMILLION LAKE, MONT.

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limits of the Province near Medicine Hat to Banff on the west, and from the international boundary on the south, to the northerly limit of the province, being a tract of country approximately two hundred miles square, and containing forty thousand square miles. When it is considered that each square mile will yield one million tons of coal, for each foot of thickness of the coal seams contained therein, one almost fails to appreciate the enormous quantity of fuel thus stored, for the use of future generations, upon this plain. It is hardly possible to over-estimate the value of a country which in addition to being one of the most fertile and productive upon the Continent of America, thus carries almost immediately beneath its surface so valuable a deposit of mineral.

The quality of coals varies from a good lignite on the east, to a good bituminous coal found twenty-five miles west of Calgary, and extending to the vicinity of Canmore; a distance of thirty miles from the last named point to Banff is an anthracite region, the coal being not inferior to the best produced in Pennsylvania.

The workable seams vary in thickness from three feet to thirteen, while there are at least fifteen known seams running from six inches to eighteen inches, of course the latter being only workable under exceptional circumstances, where there is a local market.

The Medicine Hat Lignites have been worked to a greater or less extent during the past five years, and are still being worked. They produce a good domestic coal which is also fairly good for use in stationary engines. The seam is about five feet in thickness. The next in order are the Lethbridge Mines, or what is commonly known as the "Galt Coal Field." These mines have also been worked during the past five years with a constantly increasing out-put, and at the present time can supply to

the extent of their market. They are situated one hundred and ten miles from the main line of the Canadian Pacific Ry., and are connected with it by a narrow gauge railway. The coal is an excellent one, both for domestic and steam purposes, and bears transportation well; it is semi-bituminous in character, and the seam is about five feet in thickness.

During the past autumn, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have been testing a coal field at Crowfoot Creek, near the railway, and found two seams; one about three feet in thickness, and an underlying one about thirteen feet. This coal has also been found to the north, upon the Rosebud and Red Deer rivers, and evidently extends throughout a larger extent of country at no great depth.

These coals are also lignitic in character, but prove first-class fuel, being quick to ignite and burning with a strong heat, their most serious fault being their lightness and tendency to decrepitate upon exposure to the weather. This tendency may however altogether subside, as was the case with the Lethbridge coals, upon their being extensively mined. It might be proper here to say, that these coals extend well up towards Calgary, and probably underlie the whole country at no serious depth, being in a nearly horizontal position, the greatest incline not exceeding 10° .

The most workable coals are found at what are known as the Barr River and Coal Creek Mines. And here a material change takes place in their character, becoming bituminous, and yielding a large quantity of tar and oil when submitted to heat, very fine illuminating gas, and excellent coke which will bear transportation. This coal is likely to prove valuable for smelting purposes, in connection with the working of precious minerals in the mountains in the vicinity. It has proved very little

inferior to the best Pennsylvania bituminous coals in the several tests that have been made.

The main seam consists of seven feet of coal, with an overlying one of eighteen inches, and numerous smaller ones, all very similar in character.

This field has been worked during the past three years, but not very extensively as yet. The coals lie at an angle or dip of 30° to 35° , and have been traced for miles upon the strike, both north and south. A few fairly good seams have been found between Calgary and Canmore, but the District has not yet been fully explored.

At Canmore, the first workable seam of anthracite is found; it is a very fine looking coal of good quality, about four feet thick, but not sufficiently developed to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as to its value.

We now arrive at the anthracite mines situated five miles east of Banff. These were first opened about five years ago, but no attempt was made to work them upon an extensive scale, until about two years ago, since which time the work has been pushed vigorously. The seams are three, four and seven feet respectively, the first named yielding a very fine, clean coal. The inclines have only been driven a few hundred feet upon the seven feet seam, but it has shewn a constant improvement, and may be reasonably expected to prove a very fine vein. The coal is of a very fine quality, high in carbon, and remarkably free from any deleterious substance. In addition to the local market, this coal has an extensive one in California and all along the Pacific Coast.

The foregoing covers the ground in a cursory way, scientific facts are necessary to establish the value of the coal deposits. The fact of their existence, together with the very satisfactory results of their use, during the past two or three years, having placed this beyond a doubt.

WILD FLOWERS.

Nature has showered on this land her choicest gifts, the countless charms which make this earth so fair and beautiful are here in rich profusion, and as of old when God first created the world, "behold it is very good." Not the least of its attractions are wild flowers which adorn the prairies from early spring to autumn, ever changing yet ever lovely; from the pale lavender crocus, which in nature's floral book is the opening leaf, pushing its way through the brown earth and blossoming into a lovely flower to gladden the settler's heart by proclaiming that spring is here, to the golden rod which lingers after the other flowers are faded and gone.

Among the early spring flowers is that little home plant, the blue violet, endeared to us all by the reminiscences it brings of other lands. June comes, and with it that flower of flowers, the rose; everywhere over the prairies is to be seen this little dwarf bush, with its wealth of bright blossoms, breathing into the air their delicious perfume; these are mostly bright, crimson, single roses, but there are some, both single and double, of the most delicate blush tints. The charm of this plant does not cease with the flower; in the autumn, the foliage assumes a deep crimson and orange-brown coloring, this and its bright scarlet berries make it a most attractive shrub. The months of June and July abound in flowers innumerable of every hue, the pale anemone, the blue bell perfect in shape and color, the cyclamen, the exquisitely lovely lupins, blue, pink and white, the first quite common, the remaining two more rare; banks of purple and wild thyme, the air fragrant with its spicy aroma. The most brilliant of all our flowers is that elegant floral gem, the orange red lily, which grows here in myriads, acres upon acres all ablaze with glory.



CATCH OF FISH. LAKE MINNEWAUKA, WISCONSIN.

Growing among the lilies, and making a most pleasing contrast, is a flower for which I have no name, but which for its beauty and the wild profusion in which it grows here, deserves notice; it grows about eighteen inches high, the stem crowned with a cluster of small, wax-like flowers of every variety, from the light mauve to the bright orange, yellow being the prevailing color. Another flower which may be mentioned as resembling, both in form and color, the beautiful laburnum, and another one, the gorgeous and beautiful sunflower. This flower, which grows a foot or rather more above the ground, and is three or four inches in diameter, has a circle of rich golden leaves extending like rays from a centre of rich, reddish brown; the coloring is superb, even the most æsthetic taste would be charmed with this wild beauty of the prairie.

These are a very few culled from the vast multitude which bedeck our favoured land.

“Flowers so blue and golden,
Stars that in Earth's firmament do shine.”

HORSE BREEDING.

As a horse breeding country, Alberta bids fair to be to Canada what Kentucky is to the United States. A country where the horse attains the very height of perfection. Its northern location, its high altitude, its invigorating and dry atmosphere, mild winters, with luxuriant grasses and plentiful supply of purest water, are all conducive to the growth and development of the noble animal; and although the industry is still very young, the Alberta horse has become noted for endurance, lung power, and freedom from hereditary or other diseases.

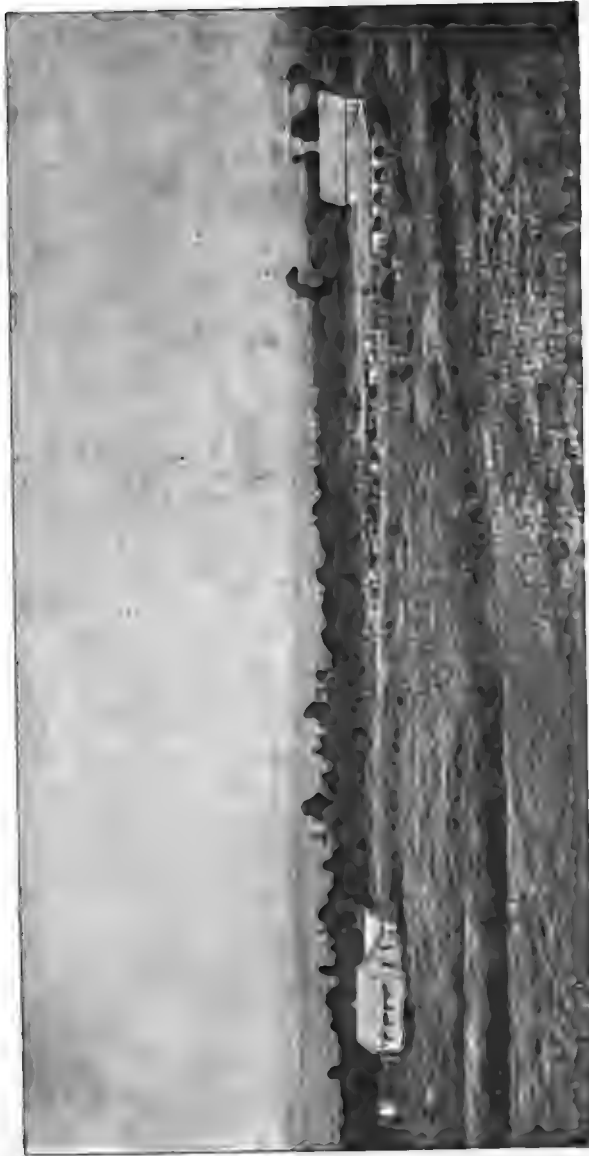
There are at present in Alberta over 20,000 head of horses, varying in point of quality from the hardy, (Cayuse) Indian Pony, to the beautiful, well formed thor-

oughbred. Thoroughbreds from Great Britain and Kentucky, Clydesdales from Scotland, Percherons from France, and trotting stock from the United States, have been imported at great expense, and the result is that the young horses of Alberta will compare with any in Canada. A better display of horse-flesh than that made at the Calgary Agricultural Exhibition last fall, would be difficult to find, and there is little doubt but that each succeeding year will witness a marked improvement.

As an investment, horse ranching in Alberta offers bright inducements, and the farmer or capitalist coming to this country and wishing to engage in this business, will find millions of unoccupied meadow lands, possessing every attraction and advantage, from which to choose a location; will find too a country where the cost of raising horses is surprisingly low; for while it is necessary to provide corrals, and winter sheds and a certain amount of hay, to guard against losses in very severe seasons, it will also be found that there is an illimitable supply of nutritious grasses. Timber for building purposes is to be had for the cost of cutting and hauling, and with the small amount of hired labor required to conduct the business, the expenses will be light when compared with the profits which are assured to those who engage in the industry in a practical and intelligent manner.

During the most severe seasons, horses will thrive on the ranges along the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains without feed or shelter other than they will provide for themselves, and in the spring will be found fat, with sleek coats. Still it will pay best to give young stock, and brood mares, until they become acclimatized, feed and shelter during the early months of the year.

As to the market, it is continually growing better; a good animal will always command a good price. The Northwest mounted police annually require a number of



THE STEWART RANCH, PINCHUR CREEK, N.W.T.

saddle horses. The officers of the British army will find Alberta the depot from which to secure the best animals for their purposes. The incoming settlers will for years to come require a large number of animals, and for heavy draft horses, there is practically no limit to the demand; Eastern Canada, the United States and Great Britain, require thousands of them each year. To those coming to Alberta, the writer would say bring as many first class brood mares as you possibly can, and if you should not desire to settle here, you will find a ready market for your stock at prices which will yield you a handsome profit on the investment; and indeed the same may be said of all breeds of domestic animals; bring good trading animals be they horses, cows, sheep or pigs, and the profits from a car-load will probably defray your expenses, and pay you well for your time while enjoying a trip to the great ranching and farming country of Canada.

SHEEP FARMING.

At a period when speculation is rampant in this new land,—when men daily exert their energy to devise schemes whereby they may acquire wealth without working or waiting—it is not to be wondered at that the slow but sure roads to competence are unheeded by the many.

Syndicates to obtain Railroad charters to build lines to the great mineral and oil fields of the north; syndicates to erect smelting works at Calgary, to run water through its streets, to build tramways, to buy town sites, to develop placer diggings and quartz mines; these and many such schemes are deemed by knowing ones, "short cuts to success," and are the all absorbing topics and attractions. And in the worry and excitement of our haste to grow suddenly rich, we take little interest in an industry which promises to be the keynote to Alberta's

future prosperity, viz., sheep farming. "A sheep farmer forsooth" in this active age, when men grow rich in a year; yet the natural advantages which Alberta possesses for sheep farming will soon give her a place second to few, if any, of the wool and mutton growing countries of the world.

Alberta to-day offers what the Australian colonies had to offer thirty years ago,—millions of acres of rich grass lands well watered and adapted in every respect for growing first class mutton and fine wool; on a land blessed with a climate of sufficient heat and sunshine during two-thirds of the year to keep the yolk in active circulation, thereby insuring a fine fibred wool; with mild winters and early springs, where cold rains and dust storms, so injurious to the fleeces, are almost unknown, inducements to which Australia never could aspire. A railway running through the centre of the grazing lands and markets for wool and mutton within easy reach.

Alberta is *par excellence* the sheep country of North America.

There is now on the plateau and undulating prairie lands east and north east of Calgary, a country capable of supporting ten million sheep—a country of sweet, thick grasses, such as sheep thrive best on—this too outside the limits of the larger cattle ranges.

To men who will engage in this industry in Alberta, with a capital of from three to five thousand dollars, and devote themselves with diligence to the care of their flocks, and use the intelligent judgment so much needed in sheep husbandry to secure the animal whose wool and mutton will be of the highest market value, a fortune is assured, and that too at the end of a very few years.

The first large band of sheep were imported from Montana in 1884; during the following years numerous other flocks were brought in, and it is estimated that

there are now over forty thousand sheep in the district. The losses during winters have been very light, not exceeding 2 per cent.

As to the breed of sheep most profitable, opinions vary, all breeds pay well when well cared for. For large flocks, merino and merino crosses—merino Leicesters perhaps are the most valuable, both for wool and mutton. Others think the Shropshire and Oxford Downs are a better cross, and still others the Cotswold; be that as it may, give any breed care and they will pay in Alberta.

There is a splendid opening for stud flocks here, and a fortune will reward the individuals or companies who will first engage in that line. It is not necessary, for the object of this article, to discuss the best mode of handling flocks; enough to say that nature in the bounty of her gifts has granted to Alberta all the essentials to make it one of the great wool and mutton producing countries of the world.

CATTLE RAISING.

To-day Alberta stands peerless among the cattle countries of the world. An unknown land of a few years ago, it is now looked to as one of the greatest future supply depôts of the British market.

Cattle raising in Alberta may be said to have commenced in the year 1880, when Hon. Senator Cochrane brought over from Montana several thousand head, and placed them on his leasehold, west of Calgary. Since then, the cattle industry has grown steadily. In the spring of 1884, it was estimated that some 40,000 head of cattle were on the ranges of Alberta. Now, (Dec., 1888,) over 113,000 head of range and dairy cattle roam at will on the plains and foothills of our great grazing district; of this number, over 100,000 are owned by ranchers in Southern Alberta, who round-up their large herds every

spring, for the purpose of branding, &c., and give them no food or shelter at any season, other than what nature provides. That this system is the most profitable one, is more than doubtful. Each year, experience points out, that there is more profit and economy in providing food and shelter for them during the worst winter weather. Severe seasons will now and again occur, and to insure against losses in such seasons, food and shelter are advisable; and the belief is fast gaining ground among cattlemen, that the most profitable way of handling cattle in large bands, is to be prepared to feed calves and weak cows during severe storms, and thus avoid the risk of loss. The saying among Alberta stockmen is, that "you cannot kill a steer with bad weather," as he will keep rustling and come out fat in the spring, after the most severe winter. It has been conceded by experienced men of many countries that Alberta stands first as a cattle country, in the abundance of its native grasses, plentiful supply of water and natural shelter; and comparing the losses in Alberta, since cattle ranching commenced, with those of the Western States during the same period, it will be found that when the cattlemen of Montana and Wyoming lost 60 and 70 per cent. during severe winters, the losses on the Alberta ranges did not exceed 15 per cent. That even these losses should occur in a land where millions of tons of hay annually go to waste, shows that judicious economy is not exercised in the cattle business—attention, industry and intelligent labour are as necessary to success in this, as in any other occupation. In point of quality, the cattle of Alberta will compare favorably with those of any country; thoroughbred bulls of all breeds have been imported, and the result is that, taken as a whole, the cattle of Alberta are of a superior class. Alberta is now shipping fat steers to England—range fed beef, which holds its

own with the stall fed article of the old country ; with a local market, which annually consumes over fifteen thousand beeves, and ever increasing, and with the great markets of the world within easy reach. With such natural advantages, enticing most experienced cattlemen from the American Territories and British Columbia to invest in the business here, who can say what will be the extent of this industry in the future, an industry which has grown with such gigantic strides in seven years.

There are millions of acres of land north of Calgary, stretching away through the verdant valleys of Red Deer and Battle Rivers, which are still unstocked ; lands too capable of producing prolific crops of hay, grain and roots.

To the capitalist and the farmer who intend engaging in the cattle business, the writer would say : examine well into the resources and attractions of any other country in which you may be inclined to make a home ; compare the advantages it offers, with those offered by Alberta, and having done so, there is little doubt, but that you will make a happy and prosperous home for yourself, under the shadow of the Rocky Mountains—and assist in stocking the fertile valleys of fair Alberta.

RANCHING.

The winter grazing grounds of the North West, were comparatively speaking unknown before the year 1880. Reports at that time reached some of the prominent stock raisers of the east of the richness of the grasses of the western plains, bordering the Foothills of the Rockies, and the light snow fall in that region.

Advised by them, the Government formulated regulations with the view of placing the lands under pasturage leases. The Departmental report for 1885, the first giving

any statistics on the Ranching interests of the west, showed the number of stock on the western Ranges as follows:

Cattle,	-	-	46,836
Horses,	-	-	4,313
Sheep,	-	-	9,694

To illustrate the rapid development of this industry, it will be sufficient to say that the returns for 1887 show the following number of stock on the Ranges.

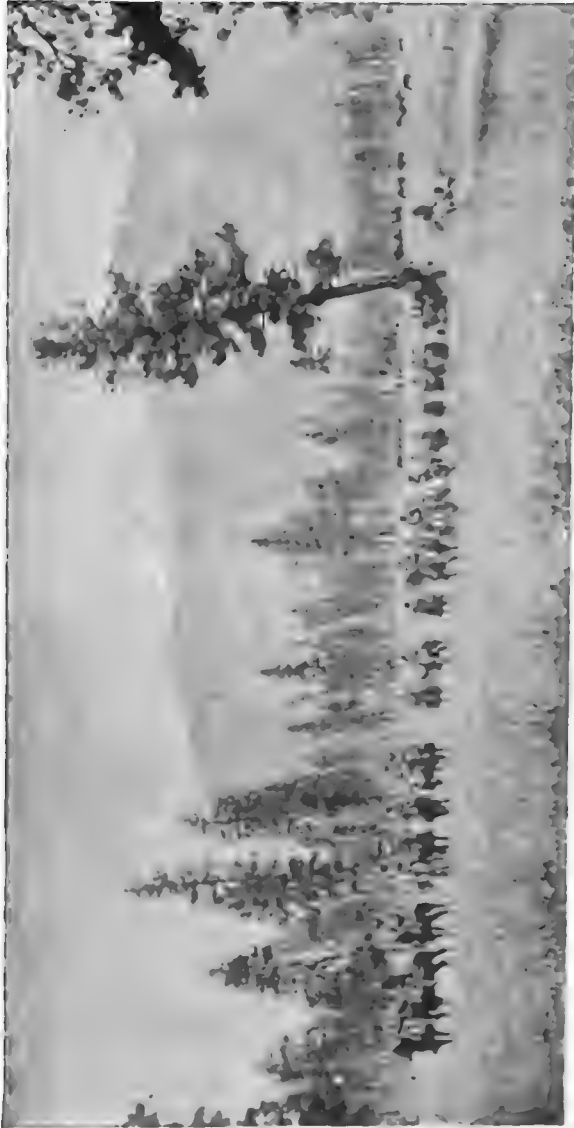
Cattle,	-	-	101,382
Horses,	-	-	10,000
Sheep,	-	-	38,080

Over five thousand grass fed cattle were shipped to Great Britain last year. Some idea can be formed of the profits accruing to cattle raisers, from the fact that for the four year old steers comprised in these shipments, as high as \$45.00 per head was paid on the foot at Calgary, while the cost of raising, consisted almost entirely for management and herding, the animals having been fattened solely on the natural grasses.

DAIRY FARMING.

The letters written by practical dairymen and farmers appearing in this pamphlet attest the remarkable results attendant on this class of farming in the Provinces of Alberta and Assiniboia.

The leading features that mark out this section of Canada, as the country *par excellence*, for the manufacture of cheese and butter, are: 1st.—The rich natural grasses on which the cows can graze the whole year round, doing away with the necessity of artificial feeding. 2nd.—The entire absence of highly flavored noxious weeds, the consumption of which taints the product of the dairy. 3rd.—The Summer temperature cooled by the Mountain breezes, and the sparkling springs of cold mountain water with which the country abounds.



IN THE RANCHING COUNTRY, NEAR CALGARY.

Possessing all these natural advantages, it cannot be wondered at, that those who have embarked in this business, have been eminently successful; and that the claims urged for Alberta, that she will be able to outstrip all competitors in the cheap production of the highest grades of dairy products are well founded.

A perusal of the following letters from intelligent and successful settlers will fully repay the reader, and must convince him that for Mixed Farming and Ranching, the fair Province of Alberta, offers inducements which cannot be excelled.

LETTERS FROM SETTLERS.

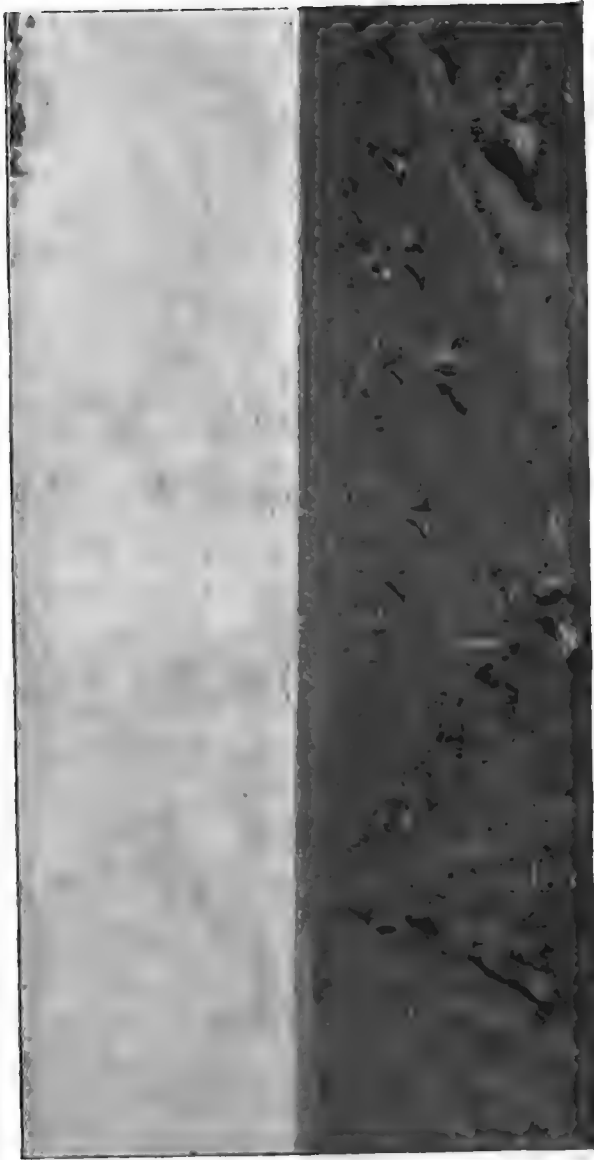
REV. A. ROBERTSON, *Presbyterian Minister, Pine Creek, Alberta, Nov. 24th, '88.*

TO THE INTENDING SETTLER :

As you are in search of a future home, allow me to give you a leaf from my experience of six years in the West as to the advantage of this locality and Southern Alberta, as a desirable place to locate. After seeing the Territory and Manitoba to some extent, I have preferred Alberta for three main reasons: its *climate*, its *grass* and its *water*.

Its climate,—Much has been said and written on this subject, and when all have said their little on the theme, it will be found to surpass all description. I won't say there is no winter here, nor yet that we can grow oranges, but take it season with season the year through, and I have seen nothing in our Dominion that is to be compared with Alberta for climate, and, as a friend said to me lately, for comfort, health and pleasure, we have the finest climate in the world.

Its grass,—The grass is not only here in abundance, but its nature adapts it for winter ranging, so that already many a hundred head of stock has come to the eastern market from our plains, that never received food from the hands of man until loaded on the car for the market: and finer beef could not be desired. When the stock owned by settlers shall fill these plains as the buffalo did, by the million, in the palmy days of but a few years back, then wealth, abundance and joy shall be our reward; the stayers shall have this harvest. Looking at the progress of the past six years, I feel convinced that many of this generation, even if I do not, shall see that day. We can boast of an extensive coal field,



A PRAIRIE WHEAT-FIELD.

timber to some extent, and valuable minerals; but it is the grass, combined with its pure water and fine climate, that is to make this part of our Dominion the wealthiest portion of our heritage.

Its water,—Purer, clearer and finer water it would be hard to find, abundance of which is to be found everywhere in this district. What with springs that live, and flow as open water the year round, rivulets, brooks and rivers, fresh from the snow-capped mountains to the West, neither man nor beast ever know the lack of one of nature's greatest blessings, *good water*. Here we have the prairies and the plains without the monotony of the vast country to the east of us. A sight more inspiring than that to be obtained as one reaches the top of many of the ridges that lie between our larger rivers, neither artist nor poet could paint or imagine. There the grandeur of those lofty peaks that in their purity point heavenward can be scanned by the naked eye for mile after mile, while at their base lies the lower-formed hills clothed with their ever-green timber, out from which comes, here and there, a dark streak which tells of crystal streams that come to bless our heritage. There, Nature, Artist and Poet, converse with man in a language not to be misunderstood; Behold! it is all very good.

Here, mixed farming can be carried on to the greatest advantage; grain and roots of all kinds, requisite for man or beast, can be cultivated to advantage, while the butter and cheese capacities of Alberta are such that we need but the settler to control a fair share of the wealth coming from such products. But I must leave this subject, as space will not permit of it here, yet, I may say in this connection that the settler can give more time to this industry in Alberta, without neglecting his stock, than in other parts of the Dominion. One is not one-half of the year gathering in food for his stock, and the other half feeding it out to them. All young stock and what is for the market can, with but little attention, provide for themselves until they are ready for the market.

I will close with a few statements as to the capacity of the country to produce grain. In wheat we are not claiming to stand with Manitoba, but the last three years has convinced many that we can supply the home demand for flour. In oats and barley we will take second place to no country. I have the average yield per acre of our place for the last three years. In 1886, twenty acres under crop, average yield per acre, 48 bushels; in 1887, forty-five acres, average yield, 33 bushels; in 1888, sixty acres, average yield, 54 bushels per acre. Twenty acres of the sixty, this year, yielded an average of 68 bushels per acre, and the oats weigh forty-four pounds to the bushel. While these are not the highest reports of these years, nor yet the lowest, they are a fair average, and justify, to my mind, at least, the statement contained in this letter, and give us abundance of hope for its future. Will you be one to come and take part with us in the blessings a kind and loving hand has provided for His creatures?

REV. JOHN MCDUGALL, *Methodist Missionary, Morleyville, Alberta.*

NORTHERN ALBERTA THE NATURAL LOCATION FOR MIXED FARMING.

Having travelled over a great part of this country between the Barr and Athabasca rivers, now forming part of the Province of Alberta, I have no hesitation in claiming for this region, that it is pre-eminently adapted for the purposes of stock-raising, and the growth of vegetables and cereals of the hardier kinds; I say of the hardier kinds, for in this matter I would speak of what has been done, not of what may be accomplished in the future, for I fully believe in climate changes brought about by the settlement of the country, and as the reward of the industry and thrift of civilized man.

Over twenty years since, I successfully raised crops of barley and all manner of roots, at points over one hundred miles distant from each other, and situated in different altitudes.

The quality of these crops was good, the quantity in yield was great, especially was this the case with barley and potatoes; while testing the soil, I was also practically experimenting upon the grasses natural to the land. I was travelling almost constantly with horses for from seven to eight months, and for the balance of the year with dogs. During the time I worked my horses, travelling and freighting with these for thousands of miles each season, I very seldom gave them any grain, their food being almost altogether the natural grass everywhere abounding in this big land; then when I took to the dogs, I turned my horses out on the range to hunt their own living, such was our unbounded faith in the native grasses, as also in the acclimatised horse. But as everyone can see, were it not for the nutritious properties of this grass, no amount of acclimatising would enable a horse to work all spring, summer and fall, and then find his own living during the colder winter months. In the meantime, in common with all other inhabitants of this country at that time, I was living on buffalo, whose only food the year round was the same grass, and whose instinctive judgment of these grasses was that in autumn and winter they went north into this region. I am writing about leaving the plains proper, these "great herds" of wild cattle went north into the park lands of northern Alberta, and thus fully demonstrated the fact of the stock-raising qualities of this immense land, situated on the banks of the Athabasca, North Saskatchewan, Battle and Red Deer rivers, while perennial streams, with their numberless tributaries, rising in the Rocky Mountains, as most of them do, and running parallel to each other, loudly speak as to the quality and quantity of the water supply of this favored land. On all of these streams, there is more or less timber, and everywhere over the country, the prairie and woodland is intermixed, so that in the very start of settlement, the question of cleared land, building timber, fencing and fuel is answered.

The *bona fide* home seeker, can, all over this part of Alberta, simultaneously with putting up his tent, start his plough and chop his logs for the new home, and set the other boys cutting and hauling rails for the first pasture; all this has been done, and will be in the near future in thousands of instances.

Here, almost any homesteader can go to bed knowing that his farm is situated right over a coal mine, that underlying this country and cropping out all over it, there are immense coal fields assuring him of an endless supply of fuel, and that at home. Another feature I had almost forgotten, is the game. The thrifty wife or daughter of the new settler can feel easy on account of the little crates of poultry she brings with her; they may grow, for all around are wild chickens and ducks in endless variety, and these can be made to give food and fun to the household while the others are growing. To the hardy and skilful hunter here is also a fine field; grisly, black, brown, cinnamon bear, moose and elk, black and white tail deer, all these are found in the low lands and foothills, while in the mountains are big horns and goats, and while hunting these latter, there is always the possibility of coming upon a mine of precious metal which will startle the word because of its richness, for as yet, this is a great unknown and unexplored region, and any new comer for the next twenty years may be a discoverer. We, who have for a score of years or more travelled this big unknown land have found some of its resources and known that these are very good, but we have also found out that it is so big, that as yet, we know very little about it. But we do know, that before many years, some of the very finest horses, cattle and sheep the world has ever seen, will be exported from this very region we have before us in mind as we write.

HUGH MCKAY, *Edmonton, Alberta, November 12th, 1888.*

I have been farming in the Edmonton district for the past seven years, and have, during that time, succeeded in growing good crops of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, turnips, cabbages and various other garden vegetables.

My average crops of wheat have yielded 34 bushels per acre, and this year I had a yield of 40 bushels per acre. My average crops of barley range, from 40 to 60 bushels per acre; oats from 50 to 60 bushels per acre, and potatoes 500 bushels per acre. I had seven hundred cabbage plants this year, and 200 heads weighed 15 lbs. each, and the balance weighed from 10 to 12 lbs. each. I consider the district well adapted for mixed farming and dairying, &c. Cattle and horses, pigs and sheep do well.

Any practical man with a capital of from \$500.00 upwards, who is

willing to work, has every chance of succeeding here if he engages in mixed farming.

This year I have been making cheese from the milk of five cows, and have sold what I made at 22 cents per lb.

When I established here I had no capital, other than health, perseverance and industry.

I like the country and climate and have succeeded here.

DUNCAN J. McARTHUR, *Pine Creek, Alberta.*

I came to Alberta in 1883, and settled shortly afterwards on Pine Creek, where I have been farming since. I have now about 45 acres under cultivation, and have succeeded in growing good crops. This year I had 42 acres of oats, which yielded 52 bushels per acre, weighing 51 lbs. per bushel. I had one acre of Fyfe wheat which yielded 31 bushels and 10 lbs. of splendid grain, and one acre of barley which yielded 50 bushels. My potatoes and root crops were as good as I ever raised, and I have been farming all my life. The country is well adapted for dairy farming; and, any farmer coming here with a little capital to start with, has better chances of succeeding than in any other country I know of.

ANGUS FRASER, *Calgary.*

In reply to your questions, relating to the country in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountain House, having lived at the Hudson Bay Company's Fort there for 12 years, I am able to speak with experience. Coming to the North-West in 1861, and being at Oxford House, Norway House and York Factory, have seen considerable of the north.

My experience of the Mountain House leads me to believe that for a country suitable for mixed farming, it exceeds, in the luxuriance of its grasses, its plentiful supply of timber, its beautiful mountain streams abounding in fish and the productions of its soil, any portion of Alberta that I have seen; that it will, in the near future, be a thickly settled and wealthy district I have no doubt. During the last two years of my stay there we grew barley, potatoes, cabbages, carrots, turnips and beets, the equal of which I have never seen. From the Red Deer to the Mountain Fort, the country resembles old country parks, clumps of trees and open glades.

During the winter of '74 and '75, Angus McDonald and myself had two oxen which were given us by the H. B. Co., and they wintered out without care, we killed one about New Years of '75 and the other late in the spring and they made prime beef. The snow does not crust in that part of Alberta, we had warm winds, but not sufficient to cause a crust. The grasses grow long, and I have seen pea vine growing as high as brush.

The country has no end of coal, it is to be found along the river and

creek banks. Game, such as moose deer and grizzly bear, were abundant, it is one of the best fur countries in the North West.

At that time there were splendid forests of timber all over the country, but I hear lately that fires have done much damage to the timber. In early days the Indians used to bring me nuggets of gold from somewhere along some of the creeks. I had several of them, but have given them all away, the last one to Dr. McEachren, to make a ring; I believe gold will yet be found there in paying quantities.

Coming up the Saskatchewan, the country is a vast forest of good timber. All that is required to make it a populated country is a railway, its advantages will soon become known. I have lived at Calgary since 1875, and have 33 acres just outside the corporation of the town of Calgary. I have 37 head of cattle and comfortable buildings. I have now left the Hudson's Bay Co., after serving them for 24 years. I am waiting to sell my property in Calgary, as well as my farm here, and immediately I do so will take my cattle to the country I have told you of, as I consider it the best country I know. In early days we used to talk of the pity it was to see such a grand country lying waste while so many hundred heads of families near home were struggling for a life-time to make a bare living, and it is as good a country to-day as it was then. My native home was in Forfarshire, Scotland. I have no object in writing this letter but in the interest of truth and information.

What a man wants here is some capital to start with, say \$500, with industry and sobriety he will, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred, be well off in the course of a few years.

THOMAS HOURSTON—JOHN ASHEN, *Edmonton, Alberta, Nov. 14, 1888.*

With reference to the quantity of land under cultivation in the vicinity of Edmonton, we should judge that there was about 4,000 acres under crop this year. All kinds of grain were grown—wheat, barley, oats; also flax, roots and vegetables, and Indian corn; small fruits, viz., currants, gooseberries, cherries and wild berries of many kinds.

We are not subject to summer frosts of any consequence. We have lived here for the last fifteen years, and we consider the country well adapted for mixed farming, and cannot see anything to prevent a good, industrious farmer to make a good home for himself and family. We also have gold mining in the river, and abundance of good coal and lumber at moderate prices. We have two grist-mills and two saw-mills, giving employment to a number of men. We have several good general stores, from which can be procured any article required, at reasonable prices. In addition, we have a very large quantity of land awaiting settlement at the present time, and we would invite anyone in search of good land to come and visit us, and see the advantages and attractions of the country or themselves. The crops throughout the district this year were splen-

did, both grain and roots. The samples exhibited at our annual Agricultural Exhibition, we claim, were second to none in Canada. The farmers are all well stocked with cattle and horses, some having as many as 200 head on their farms, which places beef at a reasonable figure.

In conclusion, we may say, should any reader of this letter require further information regarding this country at any time, we will be glad to communicate with them, and give them a true statement of matters here.

ROBT. MCKERNAN, *Edmonton, Alberta, Nov. 14th, 1888.*

I have resided in the Edmonton district for the past eleven years. My former home was in Carleton county, Ontario. I have been engaged in mixed farming the greater part of the time since my arrival here. And have succeeded in growing good crops of wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and roots every year, my wheat averaging 45 bushels per acre; barley, 48 bushels per acre; oats, from 75 to 125 bushels per acre, and potatoes, from 450 to 500 bushels per acre. I have 32 cows. This year I milked 10 of them, and have sold over \$600 worth of butter, besides keeping sufficient for my family use. I have also 8 horses, 14 pigs, 14 sheep and fowls of different kinds.

I have succeeded in the country, and consider that any practical farmer can make a good living here, with, say, a capital of \$1,000 to start with. I am a married man, and have six children, and they enjoy the advantage of attending a school equal at least to any country school in Ontario. We have churches of every denomination, and large stores carrying every line of goods. We have a good climate, plenty of timber and coal at one's door, water and grass good and abundant everywhere. I know of no country which offers greater inducements to practical, industrious farmers. My wife and myself could not be induced to return to Ontario again. The climate is healthy and good, and life is in every way enjoyable. I have been connected with the District Agricultural Society since its organization, eight years ago, and we have had eight annual exhibitions. The farm products shown each year would make a creditable display at any exhibition in Canada. Wages for good, steady farm hands have always been good here, from \$26 to \$40 per month the year round. The settler coming to Alberta will, if he is industrious, never regret his choice of location.

JAMES RUBY, *Calgary, Nov. 17th, 1888.*

In reply to your request that I would give my opinion of the adaptability of Alberta generally, and this district in particular, for individual and co-operative dairy industry, I may say, having now lived in Alberta for five years, and coming here with the beginners, when the settlement and farming experiments were timidly and in many cases rather doubtfully undertaken, I have closely watched and measured the failures and the

success of the years that have led up to the wonderful and satisfactory development attendant upon every intelligent effort to pursue mixed or dairy farming in Alberta. I was in a measure prepared to note with more than usual interest the work of making butter in this new country. Having lived all my previous life in the Eastern Townships—the home *par excellence* of good butter in Canada—and having witnessed there the many experiments that led up from the days of the earthenware milk crock, the wooden dish and the shining tin pans, and lastly the efficient cooler and the water tank, everything from the tiresome old dash churn to the modern rotary, and having read almost everything of merit written upon the subject, from the well-remembered “agricultural column” of the local weekly, and lastly, and best of all, the admirable and excellent treatise by Mr. Lynch, of Danville, Que., I feel in a measure prepared to speak advisedly—at least I will speak candidly—of what I know and have seen here, and I have no hesitation in saying or foretelling that Alberta must, on account of its natural adaptability, become in the near future one of the largest producers of the finest butter required to meet the exacting markets and satisfy the taste of the most extravagant epicures. Here are my reasons: To produce good butter the materials that make it must be good; the grass in warm seasons must be abundant, sweet and free from noxious or strong-flavored weeds, and well-cured hay made from this grass for winter feeding. These, with cool, sweet water in abundance, are the principal materials with which any intelligent man, possessing a well-selected herd of milch cows, need ask no favors of any competitor. Well, how is Alberta in regard to the required pasturo for dairy purposes? Let me tell you I have driven through central Alberta from Fort McLeod, on the south, to Edmonton, on the north, a distance of over 300 miles, and from the rolling foot-hills near the mountains to the undulating plains near the eastern border, and do not hesitate to say, without fear of contradiction, that the sun of our civilization does not shine on a fairer or more inviting field of choice, rich, abundant pastures than is to be found along the mountain streams of cool, sweet water that flow from out of the Rocky Mountain reservoirs eastward through the valleys of Alberta. The waters of our streams, flowing as they do from melting ice in the mountains, retain their coolness even in midsummer, the rapidity of the flow ensuring purity.

Then, the nights, on account of our elevation, are cool and the air peculiarly pure and clear, following the warmest days of our warmest seasons. Now the greatest obstacle which the Eastern butter-maker meets with is the warm, still, muggy nights, when the slightest negligence in perfect cleanliness entails tainted cream; a continuation of these nights making every effort to make good butter a comparative failure. Alberta is free from all this, a fact which gives it a decided prestige over all other lands not similarly elevated and situated.

Then the conditions being so favorable, you ask would I advise new settlers in Alberta to begin dairy farming at once? Most decidedly I do, as it is the surest road to success and wealth. No matter how small his beginning, let him get a few cows, as many as possible, as many as he can milk and properly care for. For instance, a settler arrives here having means to put up a small house on his 160-acre homestead, and has also means to get a span of horses, a plough and harrow, with enough of seed to plant a few acres. Then, if he has a wife, and \$100 left, let him buy two cows; if more money still, more cows—say five cows the first year. From these he will be able to make five pounds of butter daily during five months, worth in our market 25 cents a pound. This will support himself and wife. The milk will also feed three calves and a couple of pigs. Now, it must be remembered that the care of these need not prevent him from cultivating a good garden and attending to a goodly number of acres of crops besides. And it must be also remembered, in connection with all this, that no matter how favorable the season may be, the garden and the cultivated acres may prove a failure, but neither hail-storm nor frost affect the returns from properly attended milch cows.

Of course, the above applies to individual beginnings of an industry that will unavoidably merge into a co-operative dairy farming, when the creamery will be established in the centre of the township, where the individual or company will gather the cream from the surrounding farmers, and employ a practical and trained butter-maker, who will produce from the uniform and unequalled cream of Alberta the gilt-edged creamery butter of commerce, unsurpassed, if equalled, by any in the world.

Now, I will get down to figures, and show the practical possibilities of a single township of Alberta pasture land. A township is six miles square, and contains 36 sections of 640 acres each. Let us suppose this divided into 12 farms of 320 acres, each farm capable of sustaining, both summer and winter, 20 cows; this makes 1,440 cows in the township. It will be admitted that a fair average cow will yield sufficient milk and cream to make one pound of butter a day for five months in each year. Now, 1,440 lbs. of butter at, say, 20 cents per pound, will amount in a season to the handsome sum of \$43,200. Just think of this sum coming into a single township every season; and remembering all the while that after the farmer milks his cows in the morning, he can then, until the milking of evening, attend to all the demands and duties of his profitable mixed farming besides!

But it may be asked, Where will you find a market for all this butter? Well, the question of a market need give little trouble. I feel certain that if there were a hundred creameries in Alberta, each making a greater output than the above, there would be twenty commission merchants in active competition to control the productions. Butter being a

prime necessity of civilization, must not only be of good quality, but must be produced in large quantities to make the handling and control of it profitable. It is the most concentrated form of agricultural production, shrinking less in value by transportation than any other when properly prepared for export. And it is perfectly safe to predict that the time is coming when train-loads of Alberta butter will be shipped to both the eastern and western seaboard, finding a most ready market in Europe, when its excellence and reputation is once established.

Foreseeing the future and the demand for our productions is why I would earnestly encourage the incoming settler to the inviting lands of Alberta to make dairy farming his principal vocation, the most practical contributions towards which are common sense and a good wife. If I were an immigration agent, I would try to impress every incoming settler with the necessity and advantage of possessing and bringing in his wife with him. For I am persuaded that all the weariness, dreariness and loneliness, all the slovenliness, discomforts, discouragements, disappointments and failures of our North-West pioneer settlement may be justly attributed to the wifeless homes of our prairies.

CROP YIELD OF A FEW OF THE ALBERTA FARMS.

SAMUEL RAY.—Thirty acres under cultivation. Oat yield, 65 bushels per acre; 48 lbs. per bushel. Wheat yield, 40 bushels per acre. Good sample.

A. C. NELSON.—Twenty-five acres under cultivation. Oat yield, 60 bushels per acre. Barley yield, 40 bushels per acre. Potatoes, 400 bushels per acre.

R. JAMIESON.—Thirty acres under cultivation. Oat yield, 48 bushels per acre. Barley yield, 34 bushels per acre. Potatoes, 300 bushels per acre. Wheat, good crop.

McINNES & MARSHALL.—Eighteen hundred bushels of oats, weighing 48 lbs. per bushel.

D. VADIR.—Forty acres under cultivation. Twenty acres of oats, splendid. Also raised wheat, barley and potatoes, all giving large yields.

P. CLELLAND.—Thirty-five acres under cultivation. Oats, 1,280 bushels, weighing 47 lbs. per bushel. Barley, splendid crop. Wheat, over 40 bushels per acre, No. 1 sample. Also raised flax, potatoes, and garden vegetables and roots, all giving heavy yields.

J. W. McLoughlin.—Forty acres under cultivation. Oats, barley and potatoes. Eleven hundred bushels of potatoes off 2½ acres.



A FARM NEAR RIGGINS.

W. ALLEY.—Forty acres under cultivation. Oats, 75 bushels per acre.

LEO GAETZ.—Two thousand five hundred bushels of oats. Splendid crops of wheat, barley, peas and flax. Roots and vegetables, all splendid crops.

BEATY BROS.—Two thousand bushels of oats, and splendid crops of all kinds.

The following letters from the adjoining Province of Assiniboia will also be found very interesting:—

From the President of the Assiniboia Agricultural Society, Regina, Nov. 2, 1888.

Replying to your enquiry, I beg to inform you that I came to the Regina District in the fall of 1882, and settled on my land, twelve miles north-east of Regina, in the spring of 1883. I put in a little crop the first year, on breaking, which yielded well, considering the chance it had. During the summer, I prepared as much land for crop as I could afford, having started without capital, and being compelled to draw wood to town to provide the necessities of life. Each successive year I kept adding to the area of cultivation, and was gradually getting a little ahead. In 1887 I had 80 acres in crop, and, although prices were low, I got a fair return. I had at this time three horses, a yoke of oxen, two cows and four head of young cattle, a binder, wagon, plows, sleigh, and all necessary implements, all of which were paid for at the beginning of the present year. This year I had 105 acres in crop, which, if present prices rule until I get my grain marketed, will return me at least two thousand dollars (\$2,000). My yield this year was very large, the new ground yielding *thirty-five bushels of No. 1 hard wheat to the acre*; the old ground, which has been cropped five times without manure, yielded between 25 and 30 bushels per acre. My oats yielded in one field nearly 80 bushels to the acre, while none went less than 60. I consider this district well adapted to wheat growing, cattle raising and dairying. The grass is long and rich, and cattle can be fattened in this country much quicker, cheaper and better than in any other country I know of. I have not been troubled with frost since I came to this district, my wheat always grading No. 1 hard.

ROBERT GREEN, *Regina, Sept. 19th, 1888.*

The following statement will show what my farm has produced this year, and will give intending settlers an idea of the agricultural products of this district. First, I will say that in 1872 I came from Suffolk, Eng., to Manitoba, where I resided until 1882. I then came west, and located on Section 20-17-19, adjoining the city of Regina. This year (1888) I had 80 acres cropped, as follows --Wheat, 29 acres, yielding 30 bushels per

acre, grading No. 1 hard; oats, 48 acres, yielding 60 bushels per acre; potatoes (Early Rose), 3 acres, yielding 350 bushels per acre. The binding of the grain averaged 3 lbs. of twine to the acre. I have also a garden consisting of one acre, on which I raised cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, beets, mangels, &c., which, for size and quality, may be equalled, but not excelled, in any agricultural district in the world. The soil and climate of this district are well adapted to the growth of trees and shrubs. I have at present a small grove of soft maples, ranging from three to four feet high, grown from the seed sown two years ago. I also have a few currant trees, planted two years ago; they bore a fair quality of fruit this year. The soil in this district is a rich, dark clay, almost a clay-loam, with light-colored clay sub-soil. Better soil for growing grain, roots or vegetables cannot be found.

As regards our climate, all I can say is that it is second to none in the world, and that I never enjoyed better health than I have since I came to take up my residence in this district.

Regarding our school and church privileges, I may say that, in my opinion, we have them equal to any of the old cities in the east.

In conclusion, I would say that, from what I have seen and heard, the majority of the farmers in this district have raised crops similar to mine.

HENRY McELREE, *Regina, October 20th, 1888.*

I came to Regina District in 1882. I had no team, and only \$10 in cash, I located 9 miles north-east of Regina, and went to work. Bought a team on tick, and have been cracking away ever since, drawing wood, hay, etc., always getting a good living for large family, and getting farm into order. I have no time to tell you what I did during the past five years, but will tell you what I have now, and let you come to your own ideas: I have 640 acres (I second home-steaded,) 100 acres ready for crop next year, have 17 head of cattle, a binder, two wagons, 3 plows, 2 harrows, 400 chickens, comfortable house, stable, and everything necessary to continue farming. I sold my wheat to-day for \$1.04 per bushel, and when I get my money I will not owe a cent in the world. Climate good and healthy. Hasn't cost \$5.00 for doctor bills, since I came to the country. Wheat yielded this year. 25 bushels to the acre; oats, 55. No frost.

From JOHN MCINTYRE, *Vice-President Assiniboia Agricultural Society, Regina, November, 5th, 1888.*

I had 100 acres under crop this year. I have just threshed. I had one field of 25 acres, which averaged 32 bushels of wheat to the acre. My other field did not do so well, but still was large. Had fifty acres of oats, which averaged 60 bushels to the acre. Sold some of my wheat for \$1.06 per bush. I live two miles from Regina, and find dairying very profit-

able. This country produces the best butter in the world. I make more money out of my cattle than out of wheat. Barley does well in this country, and potatoes, and other vegetables, excel anything I ever saw. Will have 150 acres in crop next year, if I am well. Am building good stable this fall to cost \$800.00. This country is good enough for me.

E. N. HOKKINS, *Moose Jaw, Dec. 8th, 1888.*

I was born in Oxford County, and lived there until 1882. For ten years I was engaged in the Cheese Trade. In the Spring of 1882, I decided to emigrate to the North-West, and test for myself the adaptability of the country for stock raising, and dairying. Having procured a team and outfit at Brandon, we started out to look for a suitable location, but did not find one that was in all respects desirable until we came to the Moose Jaw Valley, where we decided to make our home. Some there have been engaged in Mixed Farming, especially dairying and stock raising, and wish to bear testimony to the adaptability of the country for raising horses, sheep and cattle. Horses live out on the prairie during the winter, and cattle only require to be fed and housed for a few weeks. The nutritious grasses of the prairie, produce the finest beef, and the milk is capable to make the finest flavoured butter and cheese. I have found the climate to be in my opinion superior to that of Ontario, and to-day, 8th of December, is a fine sunshiny day, more like a May day in Ontario, than December, in fact I do not think there is a country in the world that has more sunshine than the Canadian North-West. I raised 1,200 bushels of oats this year for my stock, but did not sow any wheat, but there is in Moose Jaw District, this year, about 150,000 bushels of good No. 1 hard wheat for market, some of which averaged 30 and 40 bushels per acre. There was not the slightest trace of frost in the District until the night of the 20th September, when all danger of injury to crops was past. I can from six year's experience, recommend the Moose Jaw District as a desirable location for intending emigrants.

G. M. ANNABLE, *Moosejaw, Dec. 29th, 1888.*

I came to the Moosejaw district in June, 1882, from Dundas County, Ontario. Have been farming ever since; my attention has been chiefly devoted to stock. I have had experience in raising horses, cattle and sheep, and in my opinion it is the best country for that purpose in Canada. The winter is not more than half as long here as it is where I came from. We have had no snow yet, and the weather is fine and warm; cattle and sheep are still grazing out, and they are in fine condition. During the winter of 1887-88, we fed our cattle only eight weeks. We never feed or stable young horses at all; they graze out all winter. I tried an experiment with spring colts last winter. I put two of them

in the stable, and fed them with hay and oats; the others merely roamed on the prairie and picked up their living, and in the spring they were in a much better condition than the others. I am satisfied this district cannot be surpassed as a stock raising and grain producing district, and would strongly advise intending settlers to see this place before settling elsewhere.

JOHN SMAIL, *Moosejaw, Dec. 29th, 1888.*

I settled on this land in the spring of 1884: I came to the Northwest from the Township of Emily, County of Victoria, Ontario. I am very glad that I came to the country. The soil here is, in my opinion, the best I ever put a plough through—a heavy clay loam, easily worked. I threshed this year 3,646 bushels (threshers' measure), of which 2,070 were wheat; and to raise this I had no assistance except a young son and one team of horses and one yoke of oxen. My son George, who farms the other half of the section, had a crop (in addition to coarse grains) of 1,325 bushels of wheat, and he had no help, except in stacking and threshing, and this was raised with one yoke of cattle. The district I also regard as excellent for grazing; the grass is strong, very nutritious. My cattle are out yet, and when they come home in the evening they are quite full. I would very strongly advise parties wanting land to come to this part of the country and make a good home for themselves.

BENJAMIN SMITH, *Moosejaw, Dec. 29th, 1888.*

I came to this district and settled in the spring of 1883. I came to it from the Township of Arthur, County of Wellington, Ontario. I regard the district as first-class for agricultural and grazing purposes. In 1887 I had over 2,400 bushels of grain, about 800 bushels of wheat, oats and barley—that quantity of each. In 1888 I had a crop of 2,700 bushels of grain, of which 1,400 bushels were wheat. All the work in connection with those crops I did myself, except the stacking and threshing. A man is quite as sure of a crop here as he is in Ontario, and he can raise it at much less expense. For grazing I think it is the finest country in the world—the finest I have ever seen, at least. My stock are out yet, and thriving on what they eat on the prairie, as fat as they would be in mid-summer. I have every reason to be thankful that I came to the Northwest. I like the climate and soil.

SAMUEL K. RATHWELL, *President of the Moosejaw Agricultural Society.*

I came to the Northwest in the spring of 1883, and then settled on the land where I have since resided. I came to it from the Township of Arthur, County of Wellington, Ontario. My opinion is that this land is A 1 for agricultural purposes. My crop last season was upwards of 1,650

bushels of grain, nearly 900 bushels of which were wheat. This was raised by me without any hiring. For grazing purposes it far exceeds the land that I came from in Ontario. Cattle thrive on the grass here whenever they can get at it, even immediately after the snow leaves the ground in the spring; whereas it even hurts them to be allowed to feed on the grass for a considerable time after the snow goes away in the County of Wellington. I think that cattle, and better cattle, too, can be raised here at one-third of what it costs there. The cost of raising horses is simply nominal; they will thrive without being stall-fed any part of the year. I am more than satisfied with the agricultural and grazing qualities of this district.

H. C. GILMOUR, *one of the Directors of the Moose Jaw Agricultural Society.*

I came to the North West Territories, from the Township of Stanley, in the County of Huron, and Province of Ontario, in 1883, since that, I have resided on said half section. In my opinion the land in this district is excellent for agricultural and grazing purposes. My crop this year (raised without any hiring) was 1,300 bushels of wheat, and upward 2,000 bushels of all grain. The crop of my son Hugh, who farms alongside of me, was 1,600 bushels of wheat, and 2,100 bushels of all grain, and both would have been at least twenty per cent. greater, had our reaping machine not broken down, when our crops were less, than half cut. During the week that they stood, before, we were able to recommence cutting, (all having been ripe) they shelled out to at least twenty per cent. I have, besides horses and other stock, over forty head of cattle, and my experience is that they can be raised here, at under less cost, with greater ease, and come out in the spring better than is the case in Ontario. I travelled in 1882 and 1883, largely through Manitoba, and the North West Territories, (east of this) and I saw nothing to suit me until I struck Moose Jaw, and the Buffalo Lake District in it. I think a man with energy, some knowledge of farming, and a little means to start with, can scarcely fail to do well out here.

JOSEPH YOUNG, *Dec, 29th, 1888.*

I desire to make this statement as to my views and experience, since I came to the North-West. I came in the fall of 1883, from the Township of Caradoc, in the County of Middlesex, Ontario, I took up my land in the Moose Jaw District, and I think it is about the best part of the country that lies between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, for agricultural purposes and mixed farming. We milked 15 cows during the last two seasons, and sold in the neighborhood of \$400 worth of butter each year, besides supplying eight of a family with milk and butter, and raising twelve calves each year, and I think for cheese and butter-making, this part of the country is hard to beat. In 1887, I had 95 acres under crops, then turned out 4,000 bushels, 1,500 of it having been wheat.

Last season, I threshed 3,000 bushels of grain, upwards of 2,000 of which was wheat. I think any man that comes to this country that will start in mixed farming will do well.

GEORGE SYLVAIN, *Moose Jaw, Dec. 29th, 1888.*

I came to the North-West in 1882, from Rimouski, in Quebec, and I have resided in the Moose Jaw District, since 1882.

I consider the land out here to be excellent land for agricultural and grazing, particularly for horses and sheep. My crop just threshed amounts to (threshers measure) 1,150 bushels of wheat, and upwards of 2,200 bushels of all kinds of grain. The climate is very salubrious, and for those who (like myself) are or have been troubled with asthma, it is inestimable. Before I came here, I could not move out of my house for six months out of each year, for thirty years; since I settled out here, it has not troubled me at all. I think this is a good place for farmers with little means, and some energy to make a home for themselves.

E. J. BARKER, *Moose Jaw, December 29th, 1888.*

I settled here in May 1883, having come to the North-West from the Township of Haldimand County of Northumberland, Ontario. The quality of the land here is No. 1, as good I think as lies out-doors. For both grazing and grain purposes I think it can't be excelled. I have pasture on my land which is at the present time affording my stock all the nourishment they require. They come in every night as full as they can hold, and it is not a particle better than the rest of the township and district. I raised last season not less than 1,700 bushels of grain, of which 950 bushels were wheat. To do this, I had the partial services of a man for four months. To persons of limited means, with energy, my recommendation is to come to the North-West. Such are much more certain of making farming a success, and of providing a good home for themselves than they would be in Ontario.

BENJAMIN SMITH, *Moose Jaw, December 29th, 1888.*

I came here in March 1882, and have farmed ever since. When I arrived here I had not enough of money to buy a cow; with what I had, I went into partnership with my brother-in-law, who had a yoke of oxen.

In 1885 I was able to start for myself, and now have six horses, a yolk of oxen, ten head of cattle and about 1400 bushels of wheat, 800 bushels of barley, and 600 bushels of oats this year, and all the necessary implements to go on with my farming next year.

I have a house worth six hundred dollars, and a stable that cost four hundred dollars. I would advise anyone who has not got a good home, to come to the Moose Jaw district and take up a homestead, he can do well, either farming or ranching.

As for stock, my horses lived until the 15th day of February, last year, on the prairie, and kept fat and hearty.

I have my patent, half of 20, 17, 27 and have got a second entry for 6, 18, 27.

I will be pleased to give any information in my power to anyone thinking of coming to this part of the country.

JOHN A. HILL, *Moose Jaw, December 29th, 1888.*

In the spring of '82, I sold my farm in the Muskoka district, and started for Manitowish; and when I got there, I thought I would like to see the great North-West, and took the train as far as Flat Creek; then with three more that joined me, we started to walk, and when we got to the Bell Farm we tried to get land homestead, but as it was so near all taken up, we could only get one place that suited, and one of the party entered for it; the other two went back, and I started on alone, and when I got to the Moose Jaw I concluded to stay, and see what the weather was in this country, and I was so delighted with the land, and especially the climate, that in the spring of '83 I took up land, and sent for my family, who arrived safely, and were delighted with the country.

I broke about 20 acres, and the next year I backset the 20 acres, and the next year I sowed it with wheat; and 25 bushels to the acre, and have had good crops every year, except '86. My wheat this year, went 28½ bushels to the acre, I had 2150 bushels of grain this year; the wheat weighs 62½ lbs. to the bushel.

I like the country and the climate, and for farming and stock-raising I don't think it can be beat, and I intend to make this my home, and would advise all who want to live happy and enjoy good health, to come to the Moose Jaw District.

W. C. SAUNDERS, *Moose Jaw.*

My experience in raising cattle in this district, has been very satisfactory. I have at present 36 head. Cattle here require to be fed only three months in the year, viz: January, February and March, and frequently will feed out a considerable part of that time. I have not had to house and feed my cattle until the 1st of January, nor after the 1st of April in any year. At this date, December 18th, 1888, I have nine calves raised by hand, which have not been stabled or fed, and they are still feeding out and doing well,

The autumn frost does not injure the grass here, as in Eastern Canada, but preserves and cures it, so that cattle continue to eat it and thrive upon it, until it is deeply covered with snow, and again when the snow melts and leaves, which usually takes place in March, the grass still retains its nutriment, and cattle prefer it to hay, and will thrive upon it nearly if not quite as well as they did in the fall before.

Horses will feed or pasture all winter in valleys, and usually come out in the spring in improved condition.

My experience has proved to me that this is eminently a stock-raising district.